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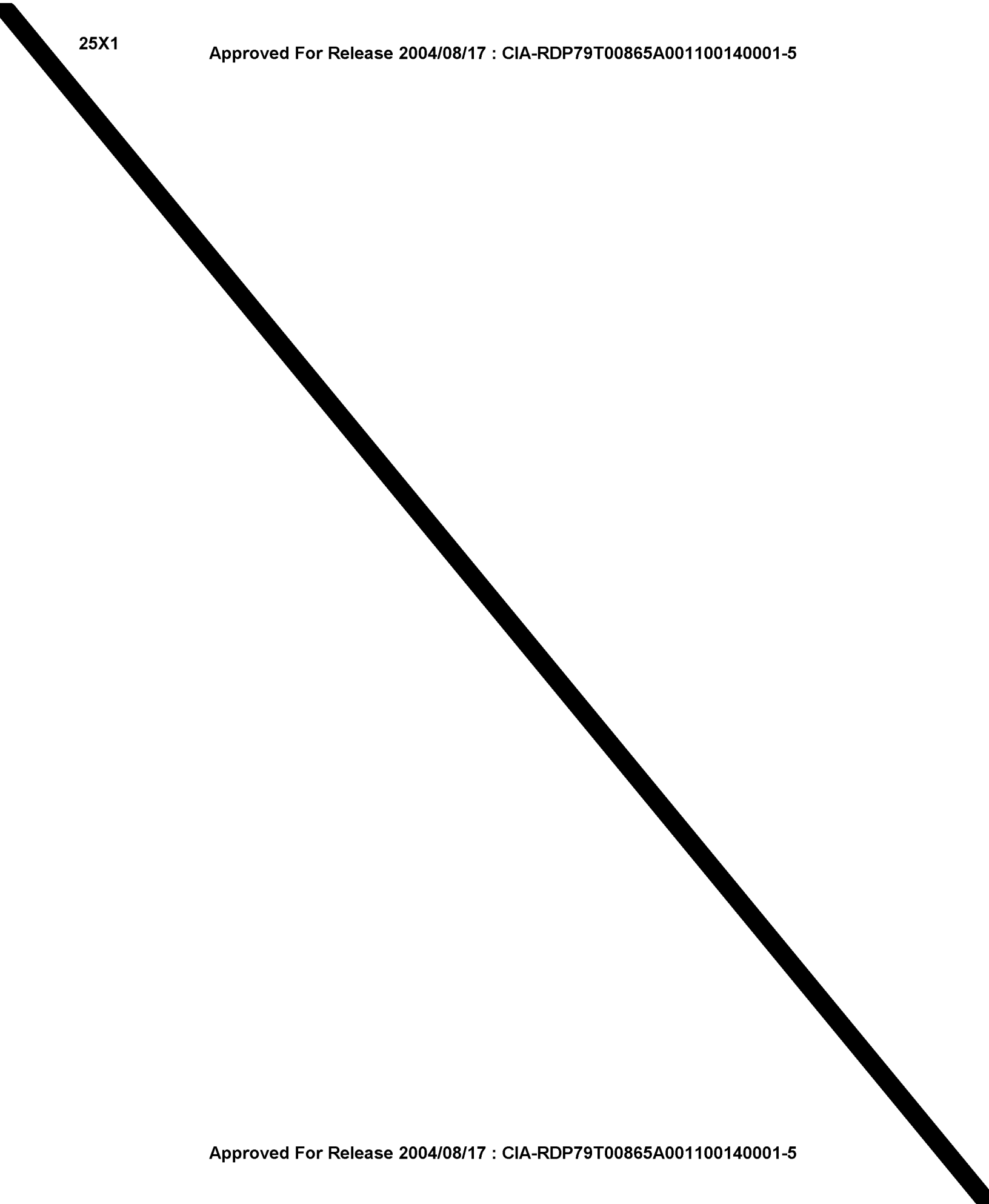

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Agreement on Fishing

Negotiations between the USSR and the US on a new agreement on fishing in the Northeast Pacific will begin July 9. Soviet fishing ships take about 10 percent of their total fish catch in this area, and Moscow is anxious to obtain a satisfactory agreement.

Last February talks broke down because the Soviets balked at attempts to impose limits on their catch. The old agreement was then extended until June 30.

Major issues to be negotiated will be Soviet damage to US fishing equipment off Alaska, conservation of fisheries in the Northeast Pacific, and crab fishing in the Bering Sea. The reliability of Soviet statistics--which reportedly often understate catches--is another item that is likely to be raised.

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Shcherbitskiy Assumes Control Over Kiev City Party Organization

In a move clearly aimed at strengthening his local authority, Ukrainian First Secretary V. V. Shcherbitskiy has split the Kiev city party organization from the Kiev oblast organization and taken it under his own direct supervision. The move drastically weakens Kiev Obkom First Secretary and Ukrainian Politburo candidate member V. M. Tsybulko, a close protege of Shcherbitskiy's chief rival, Ukrainian Premier A. P. Lyashko. As such, the move appears to open the maneuvering preparatory to the coming Ukrainian party congress and the election of a new Ukrainian leadership.

At a 12 May Kiev gorkom plenum Shcherbitskiy announced a campaign to make Kiev a model city and, declaring that this would require "constant, direct attention to its work on the part of the Ukrainian Central Committee and Government," revealed that the capital city's organization was being separated from the oblast organization and placed directly under the Ukrainian Central Committee. Shcherbitskiy thereby takes direct control over what he termed the Ukraine's biggest party organization (177,000 party members), which has been run by city First Secretary A. P. Botvin, an associate of ousted republic First Secretary Shelest, and controlled by oblast First Secretary Tsybulko, former assistant to Lyashko. Although Shcherbitskiy sought to reassure the Kiev oblast organization that it would remain "one of the great party organizations of the republic," with its 77,000 party members, it clearly will no longer rank with Kharkov, Dnepropetrovsk and Donetsk. Previously the oblast first secretary has always been a major figure and the city first secretary a minor figure. Now Tsybulko may not even rate

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reelection as republic Politburo candidate member at the coming Ukrainian party congress.

Shcherbitskiy also indicated that the functions of the city party organization would be expanded, presumably with a corresponding diminution of oblast power. This would make the status of Kiev city similar to that of Moscow city, which under Khrushchev became predominant over Moscow oblast. Until the mid-1940's, the Ukrainian first secretary simultaneously held the posts of first secretary of Kiev city and oblast.

City First Secretary Botvin praised the reorganization in his speech at the 20 May Ukrainian Central Committee plenum; oblast First Secretary Tsybulko did not speak. However, Botvin's personal position is none too secure, either. Shcherbitskiy has been highly critical of both Kiev oblast and city since he became republic first secretary in 1972, and during 1973 or early 1974 the Kiev city committee's cadre work was brought up for critical examination in the Ukrainian Politburo, according to a 30 July 1974 *Pravda* article by republic Second Secretary I. K. Lutak.

Shcherbitskiy has made extensive personnel shifts in the Kiev city committee, and by early 1975 all the city committee's secretaries except First Secretary Botvin had been replaced. At the recent May 1975 city committee plenum Shcherbitskiy was critical of Botvin and other city leaders for not doing a good enough job, and Second Secretary O. P. Naumenko was replaced and transferred to work in the Ukrainian Central Committee apparatus. Further, in his speech at the 20 May Ukrainian Central Committee plenum, Shcherbitskiy was highly critical of the conduct of the 12 May city committee plenum and revealed that he had interrupted the proceedings to force city officials to be more self-critical. He criticized Botvin for not critically analyzing the work of the city bureau and various local officials

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and complained that the first speakers, instead of criticizing the "many" shortcomings in the city, had made "laudatory, self-satisfied speeches." "Some comrades had to be corrected," he declared, and then "the character of the speeches substantially changed."

Botvin rose through the Kharkov party organization, as had former republic First Secretary Shelest, and in 1961 Botvin became Kiev oblast second secretary, deputy to then oblast committee First Secretary Shelest. He served as first secretary of the Ukrainian capital during almost all of Shelest's tenure as republic first secretary.

Another hint that Premier Lyashko's position may have weakened appeared when he was scheduled first among the republic Politburo members to speak in the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet election campaign. Normally, the most junior Politburo members are scheduled first, then the senior members, and finally the republic first secretary, whose speech represents the climax of the campaign. That Lyashko's early scheduling was not due to some conflict of timing or other accidental factor was suggested by the fact that he was similarly scheduled first in the 1974 election campaign. By contrast, in 1971, the last previous election campaign, he had spoken third from last, as befitted his position.

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